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## Appendix E.

# Draft Visual Management Procedure

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### **PROCEDURE**

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Cancels:** **PR 14-004-080 VISUAL MANAGEMENT, Aug 1999**

**TK 14-001-010 MAINTAINING MATURE FOREST COMPONENTS, Sept 2004**

**PR 14-004-080** **VISUAL MANAGEMENT**

**APPLICATION** All Trust Forestlands.

### **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish a process that integrates visual with financial and other important policy objectives in managing Trust forestlands. The Department manages Trust forestlands for revenue production while restoring and maintaining healthy and socially acceptable ecosystems. An important social concern is aesthetics. This concern creates a need for outcome-based landscape perspectives supported by silvicultural prescriptions that together balance management of aesthetics, revenue generation, and other imperatives, such as certain wildlife habitats and forest health.

Thus, when the region determines that aesthetic concerns exist, the following process shall be put into action.

### **Action**

BNR policy requires the Department to first consider whether visual impacts of management activities are of local or regional significance. For local impacts, mitigation will generally be through FMU design alterations. For regional impacts, the primary means of mitigation will be through additional strategies considering the cost/benefit to trust beneficiaries of mitigation measures and foregone revenue. Lastly, when in the best interest of the affected trust(s), regions shall advise the Department to transfer ownership of scenic areas, as equitable.

The resulting visual management process shall incorporate the following major steps. Regions may perform this process incrementally, as warranted by emerging visual issues.

- **Step 1 – Recognize Potential Viewshed:** Delineate a potential viewshed. A viewshed should have a size and shape that includes only the viewable area (i.e., reverse sides

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of hills not seen from vantage points or routes should be excluded), and must distinguish local from regional significance. Viewsheds shall be delineated as a part of the landscape perspective.

- Step 2 – Determine Objectives for the Potential Viewshed: Develop FMU objectives per PR 14-005-010 and landscape-level objectives based on how much of a viewshed must meet FMU objectives at any point in time.
- Step 3 – Adjust the Silvicultural Prescription: Meeting viewshed objectives should first be attempted through manipulation of FMU shape and size as well as placement of required leave trees. Prescriptions shall strive to maximize silvics of commercially valuable tree species in reforesting understories. Planted understory species shall conform to opening sizes reflected in current research or as presented in Department training as regards daylight requirements for survival and vigor of commercially valuable native tree species. Financial analysis shall compare mitigation to no mitigation, and, in the landscape management process, account for any timber harvest revenue permanently foregone.
- Step 4 – Validate: Once potential viewsheds and objectives are developed, the region shall be able to demonstrate the Trust mandate is duly served over time, and validated viewsheds shall be recorded in a Department-approved database.

In summary, regions shall establish viewsheds and corresponding aesthetic objectives in conformance with policy; information shall be recorded in a Department-approved database. In devising silvicultural prescriptions for viewshed FMUs, understory species shall be selected for potential future value and sustained vigor in the shade created.

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